

# WE SHOULD NOT SUBSIDIZE AN INDUSTRY THAT OVERCHARGES AMERICAN CONSUMERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DOGGETT) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, because of my commitment to expanding international trade, I voted in favor of H.R. 4986 in committee. I must say that I was forced to cast that vote under very strange circumstances, with very limited information about the full content of this bill because of the way it was brought up. Because of the secrecy surrounding this bill and the deceit surrounding it, I am reconsidering that vote and will expand on the concerns that I just expressed in the discussion with my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. STARK). On pharmaceuticals, I question why it could possibly be right to subsidize an industry that overcharges American customers and sells the very same product made in America in other parts of the world for less. Why should there be a subsidy designed to encourage lower prices for seniors in other parts of the world for American pharmaceuticals than right here at home? The high cost of prescription drugs represents an injury to American consumers, but it really does add insult to injury to reward pharmaceutical companies with a tax break with reference to those foreign sales in addition to the gouging of the American consumer.

It is very important for our colleagues to understand that H.R. 4986, which will be coming up for a vote later today, was considered under the most extraordinary and unusual circumstances before the Committee on Ways and Means. There was no public hearing. There was no report that has yet been published. There was even an attempt to limit the ability of the members of the committee to ask questions to any resource witnesses about the nature of this bill. The lead official for the administration on this, Secretary Eizenstat, was rushed out of the committee before he could answer a single question about the bill. Highly unusual that an administration official would be unwilling to publicly answer questions about a bill that will cost American taxpayers \$4 billion to \$6 billion each year. Apparently the entire process for putting this bill together was to gather in a room outside of public purview those people who would benefit, like the pharmaceutical industry, from the tax break and work with them to figure out how they could get the most tax break without any input from anyone other than those who stood to gain from the tax subsidy.

It is particularly ironic that we would be taking this bill up today, because we have just had released this

morning a new study concerning the very highly addictive quality of nicotine; that it takes a child a very short period of time of being exposed to a cigarette before they become addicted to nicotine. Yet one of the principal beneficiaries of this piece of legislation are the giant tobacco companies. They are involved in a worldwide effort to spread the plague of death and disease associated with tobacco use. We have learned today that tobacco is even more addictive than previously known for children.

Phillip Morris, for example, runs these ads all the time, they are spending millions of dollars to tell us how they do not put their logos on clothing; they do not sponsor youth-oriented activities; they do not try to attract children to smoke in the United States. While such claims are very questionable even here at home, none of them apply abroad. Phillip Morris is directly targeting the world's children, as are other tobacco companies.

Under this piece of legislation, the American taxpayer will be an unwilling accomplice of this attempt to addict children around the world. The tobacco industry, if this bill is passed, will get at least \$100 million every year in special tax breaks for the purpose of allowing it to go around and do the same thing to children in other parts of the world, particularly in the developing countries, that it has done to our children. Nor does the American tobacco industry need a special tax break in order to enjoy a competitive advantage. Big tobacco companies have already gained extensive experience as they abused American children, as they successfully addicted millions of American children who grew up to die of emphysema and lung cancer and heart problems as a result of their exposure to tobacco.

Big tobacco has the tremendous marketing expertise, paid for with millions of lives in this country, to apply to Eastern Europe, to Asia, to Africa, to South America, to addict the children in that part of the world. And, as I indicated, they have specifically refused to apply any of the very modest limitations on marketing to children that they now apply in this country to their efforts to addict children around the world.

Why should we reward this malicious industry with \$100 million a year tax cut? That is what the members of this Congress will have to answer this afternoon when this bill comes up.

## RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. QUINN) at 2 p.m.

## PRAYER

Sister Catherine Moran, O.P., New Community Corporation, Newark, New Jersey, offered the following prayer:

Lord God,

As Members of the House of Representatives meet today, give this Nation the strength and wisdom to follow Your way.

By Your gentle prodding, Lord, help those elected to public office to act on the promises made to those who rely on them.

By loosening the bonds that have held Your people in the past, may this body give service to all.

In deliberating and making decisions, may the poor and the oppressed never be forgotten.

With Your guidance, Lord, may Your servants be instrumental in fashioning a better tomorrow for all.

We ask Your blessing on the work of this Congress and we thank You for Your presence among us.

Amen.

## THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. PAYNE led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

## WELCOME AND CONGRATULATIONS TO SISTER CATHERINE MORAN

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, on this historic occasion it is with great pride that I welcome the guest chaplain to the United States House of Representatives, the first Roman Catholic nun, and the first nonordained woman to offer the opening prayer, Sister Catherine Moran. Sister Catherine Moran is well known and widely admired in my hometown of Newark, New Jersey, where she lives and has made a great difference in our community with her

over-15 years of service to the New Community Corporation and earlier as an assistant superintendent for secondary schools in the Newark Archdiocese.

A dynamic and forward-thinking leader with a passion for social justice, Sister Catherine works diligently to improve the quality of life in our community for all people. The New Community Corporation, which was founded by my good friend, Monsignor William Linder, has a tremendous record of success in restoring vibrancy to the city of Newark through a number of innovative economic development projects and community-based programs. I am pleased to have the opportunity to offer our heart-felt thanks to Sister Catherine for bringing such energy, creativity, and resourcefulness to our community.

Mr. Speaker, as a graduate of Seton Hall University in South Orange, New Jersey, I think it should be noted that Sister Catherine Moran is carrying on a legacy of another strong woman of faith whom my alma mater is named after, Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first saint who was born in the United States of America. I know my colleagues here in the United States House of Representatives join me in honoring Sister Catherine and congratulating her on this very special day.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair and the House joins the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) in welcoming Sister Catherine to this historic event today. Sister, thank you.

#### BIBLE OF THE REVOLUTION

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, on this day in history, September 12, 1782, 218 years ago, Congress made a significant decision reported in the records of Congress. The American Revolution had just concluded, and America was no longer bound by the British law making it illegal to print a Bible in the English language.

A plan was therefore presented for Congress to approve the printing of a Bible that would be "a neat edition of the Holy Scriptures for the use of schools." Congress approved the plan and on this day in 1782 our Founding Fathers issued the endorsement printed in the front of the "Bible of the Revolution," now considered one of the rarest books in the world, and I saw one recently.

That endorsement declares: "The United States in Congress assembled recommend this edition of the Bible to the inhabitants of the United States." One historian observed that "this Congress of the States assumed all the

rights and performed all the duties of a Bible Society long before such an institution existed."

This act by Congress on this day in 1782 shows that our Founding Fathers believed that it was appropriate for Congress to encourage religion and even the use of a Bible, a lesson many today would like us to forget.

#### INVESTIGATE THE CHINESE FIASCO

(Mr. TRAFICANT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, Charles LaBella, Louis Freeh, David Shippers, even Justice Department officials who wish to remain anonymous all recommended an independent counsel investigation into this Chinese fiasco: the buying and spying of our secrets and literally making illegal campaign contributions to the Democrat National Committee, possibly threatening our national security.

Poll after poll shows that Americans overwhelmingly want an investigation; and on every occasion, Janet Reno said no. Janet Reno said no five times. In fact, Janet Reno said no every single time.

Mr. Speaker, Janet Reno has betrayed America and Congress has allowed it. Beam me up. I yield back the fact that Congress should demand through legislation an independent investigation of this Attorney General and this Chinese fiasco.

#### NO CONTROLLING LEGAL AUTHORITY

(Mr. BALLENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, Vice President GORE made a promise to the AFL-CIO that he would keep Federal contracts from companies the unions did not like. This "blacklist" would be created under the proposed rules the administration released late last month and would allow unions to punish companies by holding hostage the yearly pool of \$200 billion in Federal contracts.

Mr. GORE's "blacklisting" regulations kick in far too easily. Under the proposed rule, all it takes for a contractor to be denied a contract is one adverse decision by an administrative law judge.

Mr. Speaker, when the Vice President got caught making questionable phone calls for campaign cash, his defense was that there was not any controlling legal authority. Well, Mr. Vice President, administrative law judges' decisions are not "controlling legal authority" either. Their decisions are often overturned by agencies and by the Federal courts. In fact, a court recently overruled an ALJ and the board

held that a company could lawfully fire a worker who sabotaged a company's repair work.

If Mr. GORE is going to try to punish honest companies and their hard-working employees, let him at least do it upon "controlling legal authority."

#### TAX BREAK FOR MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS

(Mr. DeFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, finally, today, Congress is going to push through a tax break that the President will rush to sign, not veto. Is it education credits, child care credits? No. A compromise on the marriage penalty or estate tax relief? No. How about how the other side loves to talk about tax breaks for small business. Will it go to small business? No. It is a tax break designed only for the largest multinational corporations operating in the United States. It will not produce a single American job, but it will cost American taxpayers \$5 billion to \$6 billion.

Over the next decade, \$750 million to GE, \$686 million to Boeing. It will double the tax break for arms exporters. It will give a generous tax break to tobacco exporters, and it will give a tax break to the pharmaceutical companies to sell even more of their drugs at prices lower than that that they offer to U.S. citizens subsidized by the U.S. taxpayers.

Mr. Speaker, this is outrageous. It will also go to foreign companies operating in the U.S.: BP, BASF, Daimler-Benz. Why are we rushing a \$5 billion tax break to these companies when Americans are still waiting?

#### RIGHTING A WRONG AND HELPING OUR FAMILIES

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, this week Congress will have a unique opportunity of righting a wrong and helping American families, all with just one vote. This week, we will vote to override President Clinton's veto of the Marriage Penalty Relief Act.

In an era of unprecedented tax surpluses, our Federal Government continues to force married couples to pay, on average, \$1,400 more in taxes than two single people earning the same salaries. It seems obvious to me and to the people of the State of Nevada that this tax discrimination is simply wrong and must be corrected, and now we will have the opportunity to correct this wrong.

Eliminating the marriage penalty will also help lessen the biggest concern facing American families today,